Date: September 6, 2006 Contact: Nancy Bjelland, 406-896-5222

The BLM Billings Field Office will hold a sealed bid adoption of wild horses from the Pryor Mountain National Wild Horse Range (PMWHR) during September. About 20 horses will be available for adoption and may include up to 9 stallions aged 4 to 7 years and 11 yearlings including 5 females and 6 males.

Pryor Mountain wild horses are popular among adopters because genetic testing has indicated they may have ancestry dating back to the earlier colonial Spanish horse. Many animals have unusual coloring such as grullo, dun, and blue roan. The herd has roamed the Pryors for over 100 years.

Those interested in adopting these horses can view them at the BLM Britton Springs Administrative Site, at the base of the PMWHR, any day during September. The facilities at Britton Springs will be open to the public from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Appointments for viewing horses outside of these times may be made based on employee availability and in unusual circumstances only. BLM employees at Britton Springs will be available to answer general questions regarding individual horses during these times or can be reached by calling 307-548-2706.

Beginning September 13, photos and individual information about the horses will be posted at https://www.blm.gov/adoptahorse/onsitegallery.php under the heading "BRITTON SPRINGS." Sealed bid forms will also be available on September 13 and are available on the website or from the Billings Field Office.

Those wanting to adopt a horse must make application for adoption through the Billings Field Office in advance of submitting sealed bids. No bids will be accepted from anyone who does not have a pre-approved adoption application on file with the field office. Sealed bids are to be sent only to the Billings Field Office and are due by September 29, 2006. Once the bidding period is closed, the BLM will contact all high bidders by telephone. Arrangements for pick-up of adopted animals can be made at that time.

Please contact Nancy Bjelland at 406-896-5222 for more information about the PMWHR sealed bid adoption process.